

OFFICE OF THE CLERK  
UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA  
450 GOLDEN GATE AVENUE  
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA 94102



SUSAN Y. SOONG  
CLERK OF COURT

In re: *Scroggins v. Union Pacific Railroad Company*, 4:18-cv-02715

Dear Counsel,

I have been contacted by Judge Gilliam, who presided over the above-mentioned case. Judge Gilliam informed me that it has been brought to his attention that while he presided over the case he owned stock in Union Pacific Railroad Company. His ownership of stock neither affected nor impacted his decisions in this case. However, his stock ownership would have required recusal under the Code of Conduct for United States Judges, and thus, Judge Gilliam directed that I notify the parties of the conflict.

The case was assigned to Judge Gilliam on May 11, 2018. Dkt. No. 10. On June 1, 2018, the parties stipulated to transfer venue to the Central District of California, and Judge Gilliam granted the stipulation on June 4, 2018. Dkt. Nos. 15, 16.

Advisory Opinion 71, from the Judicial Conference Codes of Conduct Committee, provides the following guidance for addressing disqualification that is not discovered until after a judge has participated in a case:

[A] judge should disclose to the parties the facts bearing on disqualification as soon as those facts are learned, even though that may occur after entry of the decision. The parties may then determine what relief they may seek and a court (without the disqualified judge) will decide the legal consequence, if any, arising from the participation of the disqualified judge in the entered decision.

Although Advisory Opinion 71 contemplated disqualification after a Court of Appeals oral argument, the Committee explained “[s]imilar considerations would apply when a judgment was entered in a district court by a judge and it is later learned that the judge was disqualified.”

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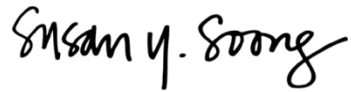
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With Advisory Opinion 71 in mind, you are invited to respond to Judge Gilliam's disclosure of a conflict in this case. Should you wish to respond, please submit your response on or before September 15, 2021. Any response will be considered by another judge of this court without the participation of Judge Gilliam.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Susan Y. Soong". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Susan Y. Soong  
Clerk of Court